

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A medical apparatus lease system comprising:  
an input section for inputting information on a  
usage status of a medical apparatus;

5 a storage section for storing said information on  
said usage status of said medical apparatus as  
electronic data;

10 a transmission section for transmitting said  
electronic data on said usage status stored in said  
storage section;

a fee system holding system for holding fee  
systems that set lease fees for said medical apparatus;

15 a calculation section for calculating the amount  
of lease fees for said medical apparatus by correlating  
said electronic data on said usage status to said fee  
systems held by said fee system holding system; and

20 a billing information creating section for  
creating billing information for charging the amount of  
lease fees calculated by said calculation section to a  
preset payer of the lease fees for said medical  
apparatus.

25 2. A system according to claim 1, further  
comprising a medical apparatus having a usage status  
storage section for storing information on said usage  
status as electronic data, wherein:

said input section inputs the information on the  
usage status for the medical apparatus.

3. A system according to claim 1, further comprising a return section for returning status report information such as information on said amount of lease fees or other information, for example, an error status for errors in the medical apparatus, from said calculation section to said transmission section or said medical apparatus.

4. A system according to claim 1, further comprising an authentication section for permitting only a previously authenticated person to input or change client information on a client using said medical apparatus lease system and apparatus information on the client using said medical apparatus lease system.

5. A system according to claim 1, wherein the lease fee system for said medical apparatus is selected from a program for determining an amount due depending on the number of times that said medical apparatus has been operated, a program for determining the amount due depending on the number of outputs from said medical apparatus, a program for determining the amount due depending on an amount of time for which said medical apparatus has been operated or leased, and a program for determining the amount due depending on the amount of energy used by said medical apparatus.

6. A system according to claim 1 further comprising a program used with said programs for said

lease fee system for said medical apparatus to prohibit an increase in the fees when said medical apparatus is tentatively used to check its operation or functioning.

5           7. A system according to claim 1 further comprising a computation section for computing an experience on usage of said medical apparatus and an output section for outputting the computed experience data.

10           8. A medical apparatus lease method comprising:  
            an input step of inputting information on a usage status of a medical apparatus;

            a storage step of storing said information on said usage status of said medical apparatus as electronic data;

15           a transmission step of transmitting said stored electronic data on said usage status;

            a calculation step of calculating an amount of lease fees for said medical apparatus by correlating said electronic data on said usage status to preset fee systems for said medical apparatus;

20           a billing information creating step of creating billing information required to charge the amount of lease fees calculated by said calculation step to a preset payer of said lease fees for said medical apparatus; and

25           a billing step of providing said fee payer with said billing information created by said billing

information creating section.

9. A method according to claim 8, further comprising a return step of returning status report information such as information on said amount of lease fees or other information, for example, an error status for errors in the medical apparatus, to said medical apparatus.

10. A method according to claim 8, further comprising an authentication step of permitting only a previously authenticated person to input or change client information on a client using said medical apparatus lease system and apparatus information on the client using said medical apparatus lease system.

11. A method according to claim 8, wherein the lease fee system for said medical apparatus is selected from a program for determining an amount due depending on the number of times that said medical apparatus has been operated, a program for determining the amount due depending on the number of outputs from said medical apparatus, a program for determining the amount due depending on an amount of time for which said medical apparatus has been operated or leased, and a program for determining the amount due depending on the amount of energy used by said medical apparatus.

12. A method according to claim 8 further comprising a program used with said programs for said lease fee system for said medical apparatus to prohibit

an increase in the fees when said medical apparatus is tentatively used to check its operation or functioning.

13. A method according to claim 8 further comprising a computation step for computing an  
5 experience on usage of said medical apparatus and an output step for outputting the computed experience data.

14. A medical apparatus comprising:  
a usage detecting section operating in connection  
10 with usage of a medical apparatus; and  
a count section for holding a value proportional with a quantity of usage of the usage detecting section.

15. A medical apparatus according to claim 14,  
15 wherein said usage detecting section is a switch operating in connection with an operation of connecting said medical apparatus to an apparatus main body, and  
said count section holds a value proportional with the number of operations of said switch.

20 16. A medical apparatus according to claim 14,  
wherein said usage detecting section is a switch operating in connection with an operation of said medical apparatus, and

said count section holds a value proportional with  
25 the number of operations of said switch.

17. A medical apparatus according to claim 14,  
further comprising a signal generating section

operating in connection with electric conduction through said medical apparatus, wherein said count section holds the accumulated number of signals generated by said signal generating section.

5           18. A medical apparatus according to claim 14,  
further comprising:

an individual identifier for identifying said medical apparatus, the individual identifier being provided in the medical apparatus;

10            an individual recognizing section for recognizing  
             said individual identifier; and

a recording section for recording an experience on  
usage for each recognized individual identifier.